

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims, with amendments to independent claims 1, 32 and 48, will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. ***No new matter is introduced as a result of the following claim amendments.***

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). An electronic contact resolution method, comprising:
automatically extracting contact information from any of a plurality of file types included in a data store, said data store including at least one of word processor files, spreadsheet files, and presentation files;

wherein extracting the contact information includes automatically examining the complete contents of one or more of the files in the data store and extracting any contact information located within those contents;

maintaining a list of at least one contact entry derived from the contact information extracted from the data store;

automatically computing a weight for each entry in the list;

tracking contact information associated with the contact entry; and

automatically resolving contact entries in real time by dynamically providing specific contact entries from the maintained list based on the weight of each entry in the list.

Claim 2 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the data store includes sent and received email.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 2 wherein the data store further includes database files.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein the weight of an entry is updated dynamically based on the number of times that the entry has been used.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein the weight of an entry is updated dynamically based on the time since an email using the contact data of the entry was sent.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein the weight of an entry is updated dynamically based on the time since an email using the contact data of the entry was received.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein the weight of an entry is updated dynamically based on the time since an item containing data matching the entry was added to the data store.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein the weight of an entry is updated dynamically as new information enters the data store.

Claim 10 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein automatically resolving contact entries comprises providing a most probable match to an input.

Claim 11 (Original). The method of Claim 1 wherein automatically resolving contact entries comprises providing a most recently used match to an input.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein automatically resolving contact entries comprises providing the entry having the greatest weight where one or more entries match an input.

Claim 13 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the size of the list is constrained to improve performance of automatically resolving contact entries.

Claim 14 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the size of the list is specified by a user.

Claim 15 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the list is disabled by a user.

Claim 16 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein new entries are added to the list as new information enters the data store.

Claim 17 (Original). The method of claim 16 wherein entries are removed from the list and replaced with new entries when the list is full.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 16 wherein entries are assigned relative weights, and wherein new entries having weights that are at least equal to the weights of existing entries in the list are added to the list to replace the existing entries.

Claim 19 (Original). The method of claim 18 wherein the new entry is not added to the list if all entries in the list have higher weights than the new entry.

Claim 20 (Original). The method of claim 18 wherein an entry in the list having the lowest weight will be chosen at random and replaced with the new entry if the lowest weight of entries in the list is equal to the weight of the new entry and that weight is shared by at least two entries in the list.

Claim 21 (Original). The method of claim 16 wherein new entries are added to the list after those entries are first used.

Claim 22 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein an existing contact database is used with the maintained list for automatically resolving contact entries.

Claim 23 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the maintained list is stored in random access memory and cached in a nonvolatile storage medium.

Claim 24 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein entries are removed from the list when matching entries are added to a contact database.

Claim 25 (Original). The method of claim 15 wherein entries are not added to the list if they are already stored in a contact database.

Claim 26 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the automatically resolved contact entry is selectable by a user via a user interface.

Claim 27 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein items entering the data store are automatically scanned for contact information as the items enter the data store.

Claim 28 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein entries in the list are automatically updated as new information matching the entries enter the data store.

Claim 29 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein particular items within the data store are excluded from tracking.

Claim 30 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein email received from at least one of specific email addresses and Internet domains are excluded from tracking.

Claim 31 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the contact information of the entries includes a plurality of information elements including:

- an email address;
- a friendly name;
- a number of times that the entry has been used;
- a date the email address was last sent to;
- a date the email address was last received from; and
- a weight.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended). A system for automatically generating a dynamic list of entries containing contact information comprising:

- a data store comprising electronic files, said electronic files including at least one of word processor files, spreadsheet files, and presentation files;

- a scan module that fully scans the contents of any of the electronic files included in the data store;

- an extract module that extracts all contact information contained within ~~from~~ any of the scanned files;

- a populate module that populates the list with the information extracted from the scanned files; and

- a weight module that dynamically computes a weight for each entry in the dynamic list.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented). The system of claim 32 wherein the data store further includes a plurality of types of electronic files, including:

- at least one of previously sent and received email;

- email addresses and contacts that exist within previous systems;

- email stores located on public servers; and

- current and previous contact databases; and

- data embedded within database files.

Claim 34 (Original). The system of claim 32 wherein the contact information of the entries includes an email address.

Claim 35 (Original). The system of claim 32 wherein the contact information of the entries further includes a friendly name.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented). The system of claim 32 wherein the contact information of the entries further includes:

- a number of times that the entry has been used;

- a date the email address was last sent to; and

- a date the email address was last received from.

Claim 37 (Cancelled)

Claim 38 (Original). The system of claim 32 wherein contact information matching data within an address book is not added to the list.

Claim 39 (Original). The system of claim 32 wherein the size of the list is constrained.

Claim 40 (Original). The system of claim 32 wherein the size of the list is variable.

Claim 41 (Original). The system of claim 32 wherein new entries are added to the list as new information enters the data store.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented). The system of claim 32 wherein the list is capable of being browsed via a user interface.

Claim 43 (Original). The system of claim 32 wherein entries from the resolution list are selectively added to an address book via a user interface.

Claim 44 (Original). The system of claim 32 further comprising automatically suggesting to a user that specific entries from the list be added to an address book via a user interface.

Claim 45 (Original). The system of claim 32 further comprising automatically providing completion information via a user interface from an entry in the list based on a partial match to user input.

Claim 46 (Original). The system of claim 32 wherein particular electronic files within the data store are excluded from scanning.

Claim 47 (Original). The system of claim 32 wherein email received from at least one of specific email addresses and Internet domains are excluded from scanning.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended). A method for automatically generating a dynamic list of entries containing contact information comprising:

fully scanning the entire contents of at least one ~~any~~ of a plurality of file types in a data store containing electronic files including at least one of word processor files, spreadsheet files, and presentation files;

extracting any contact information contained within ~~from~~ any of the scanned files; and
populating the list with the information extracted from the scanned files.

Claim 49 (Original). The method of claim 48 wherein the data store has a plurality of types of electronic files, including:

at least one of previously sent and received email;
email addresses and contacts that exist within previous systems;
email stores located on public servers;
at least one of current and previous contact databases and address books; and
data embedded within other application electronic files.

Claim 50 (Original). The method of claim 48 wherein the contact information of the entries includes an email address.

Claim 51 (Original). The system of claim 48 further comprising automatically providing completion information via a user interface from an entry in the list based on a partial match to user input.

Claim 52 (Original). The system of claim 48 wherein particular electronic files within the data store are excluded from scanning.

Claim 53 (Original). The system of claim 48 wherein email received from at least one of specific email addresses and Internet domains are excluded from scanning.